



The Christ Church History and Archives committee has been formed to collect, document and preserve the material and social history of the Parish and to encourage participation and involvement of all parishioners.

Artifacts at Christ Church

People, places and events. These are the elements of history, and they are all intertwined. But these are all intangible. Artifacts are the tangible things, the objects that bear witness to the people, places, and events. Artifacts are the things that we have made, that we can hold and use.

Over the years, parishioners have donated objects large and small to Christ Church and to the Glory of God. Memorial inscriptions or plaques link the object to the person, and keep their memory vivid. Some of these are furnishings, such as the table that holds the Honour Roll of the war dead, the pulpit, the welcoming tables in the narthex, the benches in the garden. Another gift was the grand piano now in the lower church hall donated in memory of E. Harold Tanner by his children in 1989. The Tanner family has been part of Christ Church for several generations.

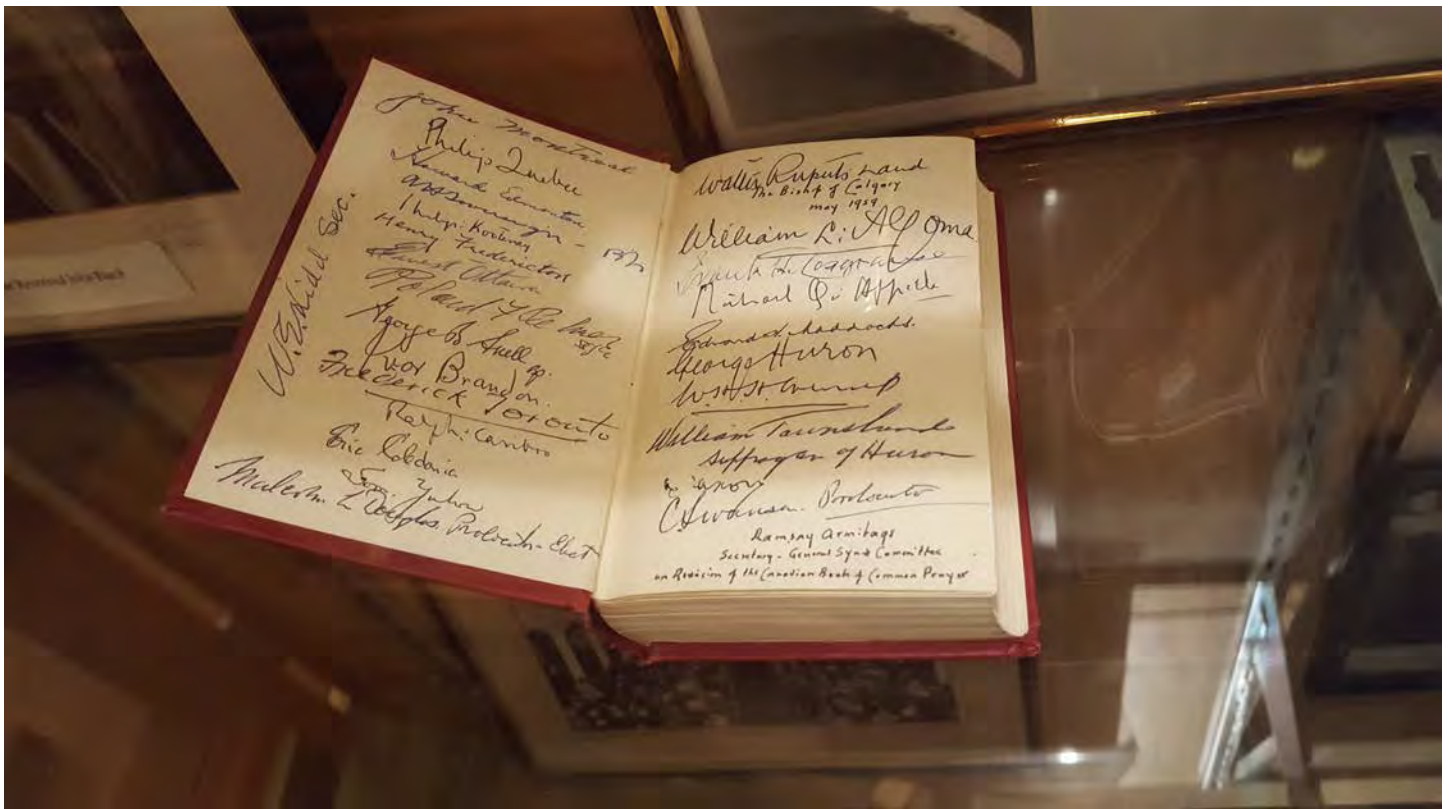
Some objects are communion furnishings and vessels for the sanctuary. The pair of brass vases holding the flowers we admire each Sunday are inscribed "Sacred to the memory of Sgt. Frederick Ernest Boalch (R.C.A.F.) February 12, 1945; given by his parents and dedicated 1947". Boalch was an RCAF Flight Engineer, killed in a training crash at Saanich Inlet on his 22nd birthday. He had been a student at Mount Royal College, and led a dance band. The vases are a link to this tragic story, and a name that we hear read on each Remembrance Day.

Some objects are no longer in common use, and a selection of these can be seen in the display cases at the entrance to the Crump Room. These include historic plans and prints of the church architecture, communion vessels, and guest registers.

Some objects are historic items in their own right. Christ Church has a volume of the vestry minutes from the early days of the church, which is an important archival document. A prayer book signed by the bishops and others who attended a 1959 meeting of the General Synod Committee on revision of the Canadian Book of Common Prayer can be seen in the display case; one of the signatures is that of Cecil Swanson from Christ Church. Their significance demands that they be looked after carefully, as befits their significance.

Every object in a church has many layers of meaning that have taken their form over the centuries. Each time we gather together and participate in the ritual of a service, these layers are present and enrich the experience that we share with all the generations that have preceded us. When people donate objects to the church, we use them in joyful remembrance, adding yet another layer of contemporary meaning. Take the time to look around you at some of the memorial inscriptions.

Parishioners are invited to contact John Mendham (jhmendham@telus.net) or other committee members, if they would like a longer historical essay on this subject, or if they have oral or tangible records they would like to donate.



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Horne	1913 – 1929	Tatchell	1966 – 1980	Tucker	2005 – 2015
Luxton	1930 – 1933	Curtis	1980 – 1983	Belcher	2015 – 2016
Kemp	1933 – 1944	O'Driscoll	1984 – 1992	Pickett	2016 – Present
Crump	1944 – 1960	Boyles	1992 – 1993		
Dowker	1960 – 1966	Pike	1993 – 2003		